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Minutes
Native American Landscape Subcommittee
9/17/2001
Caltrans Office, 1120 N Street, Sacramento

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Attending: Kathy Wallace, CIBA
Cassandra Hensher, CIBA
Keith Robinson, Caltrans Landscape
Tina Biorn
Karen Nissen
Kathleen Sartorius

Purpose of Committee:

Protect and promote California Native Plants traditionally used by Native People and that meet Caltrans' needs.

How:

Native Americans and Caltrans work together.
A continual education process.

Brainstorm of ideas:

- Develop plant lists for use by CT Landscape and Maintenance
- Develop reference list for use by biological staff during surveys and to include possibly in biological mitigation areas
- Develop a plant list organized by tribe and area.
- Determine how and why Caltrans uses plants
- Develop list of how Tribes use plants.
- Develop list of Native American maintenance procedures for each plant
- Put all the lists into a resource directory.
- Include Native resource people in the resource directory.
- Develop interpretive garden of Native plants at rest areas and maintenance stations.
- Every Roadside Vegetation Management Committee should have a knowledgeable Native weaver or gatherer.
- Develop list of Native resource people for each district.
- Native Americans and Caltrans co-manage Native gathering sites
- Information for Caltrans' staff on Tribes; recognized, unrecognized, Tribal governments, traditional practitioners, cultural people.
- Continual educational process.

Complaints most often voiced:

- Plants sprayed with herbicide.
- Plants run over by equipment.
- Plants cut by CT maintenance before Native Gatherers can harvest.

Other ideas:
- ESA signing for gathering areas.
- Adopt-a-Highway program to allow Native Gatherers to manage plants.

Include at next meeting:
- Landscape Specialist – John Peterson or Kent Kibble
- John Rizzardo, Maintenance
- A Caltrans botanist
- Peg Mathewson, ethnobotanist
- A person from California Native Plant Society

Next meeting:
- Have meeting the day before the NAAC meeting.
- Committee members will bring lists of resources.